REMARKS

Claims 1-21 are pending, with claims 1 and 15 being independent. No new matter has been added. In view of the following remarks, all of the claims should be allowed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Claims 1-21 stand rejected as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Publication No. US 2003/0208460 issued to Srikant et al. ("Srikant") in view of U.S. Publication No. 2005/0120021 issued to Seibel et al. ("Seibel"). These rejections are traversed.

As a starting point, it is noted that claims 1 and 15 were amended to include limitations from original claim 22 because such an amendment was indicated as being allowable in the office action of October 15, 2007. It is respectfully submitted that this finding of allowability was accurate and the claims as submitted remain allowable.

Claims 1 and 15 have been amended to recite a data abstraction layer (for support, see, inter alia, original claims 1 and 15).

Srikant, describes a system to gather business requirements, and from such gathering, generate and link reports in an OLAP system. With Srikant, requirements are received and associated with identified report processing objects used to generate report specifications defining a report. New report processing objects can be devised and associated with the requirements and also used in generating the report specifications. Furthermore, report specifications and a data store schema, describing a data store having data used to generate a report, are received. The report specifications and the data store schema are used to generate report metadata that can be linked to a specific report tool

used to produce an instance of the report. Overall, Srikant contains components that are typical for an OLAP environment.

Siebel on the other hand, provides a text mining system for collecting business intelligence about a client, as well as for identifying prospective customers of the client, for use in a lead generation system accessible by the client via the Internet. The text mining system has various components, including a data acquisition process that extracts textual data from various Internet sources, a database for storing the extracted data, a text mining server that executes query-based searches of the database, and an output repository. A web server provides client access to the repository, and to the mining server.

The recited subject matters allows for one to tightly integrate OLTP systems (operational systems) with OLAP systems (analytical systems) into one coherent BI platform. Such a combination is not suggested by the cited references, whether considered singly or in combination.

In further detail, the recited subject matter provides various levels of "real-time" data through one integrated platform, while providing the same level of BI services and an identical "look and feel" to the end user (via the abstraction layer). The cited references do not suggest such an arrangement nor are they directed to such advantages.

Furthermore, moving a certain data set from one level of real-time to the next level of real-time is supported by the current subject matter in substantially an automated way. These levels range from real "real-time", where the BI platform does leverage all meta data, data, hierarchies, and authorizations in the operational system, to close-to "real-time", where the BI platform replicates all these assets. Moreover, in contrast to the

cited references, through the common abstraction layer (as recited in the claims), hybrid models are possible (e.g., one can report on close-to-real-time data that is replicated to a OLAP system and provide a full history, and enrich that historic data with real-time data).

As a further differentiator, the recited subject matter includes a semantic abstraction (abstraction layer) from various data sources (both operational and analytical). This arrangement serves three purposes (a) integration of real-time OLTP data with historic OLAP data into one single report or analysis, (b) common interaction paradigms and look and feel for the end user, independent of the data source, and (c) leveraging of master data, hierarchies and authorization data of the OLTP system in the BI platform without replication, and combining it with similar assets stored in the OLAP system.

Again, with the current subject matter, data is fed into the abstraction layer via the data access layer. Depending on where the data originates, the service layer enriches the data, in order to harmonize data source dependent specifics of the data. The data access layer provides various "integration paths". The services layer offers a persistency service, so switching from a real real-time scenario with no data history to do a close-to real-time scenario with full data history is only requires selecting an additional service of the services layer. Such an arrangement provides a non-obvious improvement over the cited references.

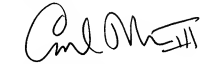
Accordingly, claims 1-21 should be allowable.

Concluding Comments

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment. Applicant asks that all claims be allowed.

If there are any questions regarding these amendments and remarks, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below. A one-month extension of time is hereby petitioned. Authorization for a credit card payment of the one-month extension fee is submitted herewith. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be due, or credit any overpayment of same, to Deposit Account No. 50-0311, Reference No. 34874-082.

Respectfully submitted,



Date: December 19, 2008

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